

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5        1. A communication system comprising:  
          a notifications server, coupled to the Internet, and having a standard electronic  
          mail protocol for receiving standard formatted electronic mail messages;  
          wherein said notifications server is for storing a received electronic mail message  
          and also is for automatically generating, therefrom, a subset of said received electronic  
10        mail message; and  
          wherein said notifications server, upon generation of said subset, is for wirelessly  
          transmitting said subset to an identified wireless electronic device associated with a user  
          that is the recipient of said received electronic mail message.

15        2. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said identified  
          wireless electronic device is operable to display received subsets to a user.

20        3. A communication system as described in Claim 2 wherein said identified  
          wireless electronic device is operable to allow said user to select a particular received  
          subset and wherein said notifications server is also for wirelessly downloading the  
          remainder of an electronic mail message corresponding to said particular received  
          subset in response to the selection thereof by said identified wireless electronic device.

4. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said subset is a notification message comprising a sender's identification and a subject field of said received electronic mail message.

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5. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said identified wireless electronic device is a handheld computer system having wirelessly enabled communication.

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6. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said notifications server comprises a user information database for providing a mapping between wireless electronic devices and their associated electronic mail addresses.

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7. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein a push packet is used by said notifications server to wirelessly transmit said subset to said identified wireless electronic device.

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8. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said subset is wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a wireless LAN communication network.

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9. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said subset is wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a Bluetooth wireless communication network.

10. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said subset is  
wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a Mobitex wireless  
communication network.

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11. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said standard  
electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the SMTP protocol (Simple Mail  
Transport Protocol).

10 12. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said standard  
electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the POP protocol (Post Office  
Protocol).

15 13. A communication system as described in Claim 1 wherein said standard  
electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the IMAP protocol.

14. A communication system comprising:  
a plurality of wireless electronic devices operable to communicate over a  
wireless communication network; and  
20 a notifications server, coupled to the Internet and operable to communicate over  
said wireless communication network, said notifications server having a standard  
electronic mail protocol for receiving standard formatted electronic mail messages from  
the Internet;

wherein said notifications server is for storing a received electronic mail message and is also for automatically generating, therefrom, a notification message which is a subset of said received electronic mail message; and

    said notifications server, upon generation of said notification message, for

5    wirelessly transmitting said notification message to an identified wireless electronic device, of said plurality of wireless electronic devices, associated with a user that is the recipient of said received electronic mail message.

15.    A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said identified

10    wireless electronic device is operable to display received notification messages to a user.

16.    A communication system as described in Claim 15 wherein said identified

wireless electronic device is operable to allow said user to select a particular received

15    notification message and wherein said notifications server is also for wirelessly downloading the remainder of an electronic mail message corresponding to said particular received notification message in response to the selection thereof by said identified wireless electronic device.

20    17.    A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said

notification message comprises a sender's identification and a subject field of said received electronic mail message.

18. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said identified wireless electronic device is a handheld computer system having wirelessly enabled communication.

5 19. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said notifications server comprises a database for providing a mapping between wireless electronic devices and electronic mail addresses.

10 20. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said notification message is wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a push packet.

15 21. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said notification message is wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a wireless LAN communication network.

20 22. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said notification message is wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a Bluetooth wireless communication network.

23. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said notification message is wirelessly transmitted by said notifications server using a Mobitex wireless communication network.

24. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said standard electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the SMTP protocol (Simple Mail Transport Protocol).

5 25. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said standard electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the POP protocol (Post Office Protocol).

10 26. A communication system as described in Claim 14 wherein said standard electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the IMAP protocol.

15 27. A method of communicating the steps of:  
a) receiving, at a notifications server, a received electronic mail message having a standard electronic mail format and communicated to said notifications server using a standard electronic mail protocol;  
b) storing said received electronic mail message;  
c) automatically generating from said received electronic mail message a notification message which is a subset of said received electronic mail message; and

20 d) upon generation of said notification message, wirelessly transmitting said notification message from said notifications server, over a wireless communication network, to an identified wireless electronic device, of said plurality of wireless electronic devices, associated with a user that is the recipient of said received electronic mail message.

28. A communication method as described in Claim 27 further comprising the step of said received wireless electronic device displaying received notification messages to a user.

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29. A communication method as described in Claim 27 wherein said step a) comprises the step of receiving said received electronic mail message over said Internet.

10 30. A communication method as described in Claim 28 further comprising the steps of:

    said identified wireless electronic device allowing said user to select a particular received notification message; and

    said notifications server wirelessly downloading the remainder of an electronic mail message corresponding to said particular received notification message in response to said user selecting said particular received notification message.

20 31. A communication method as described in Claim 28 further comprising the step of using a database to provide a mapping between wireless electronic devices and electronic mail addresses of received electronic mail messages.

25 32. A communication method as described in Claim 27 wherein said step d) comprises the step of wirelessly transmitting said notification message by said notifications server using a push packet.

33. A communication method as described in Claim 27 wherein said standard electronic mail protocol is substantially compliant with the SMTP protocol (Simple Mail Transport Protocol).